The Global Macedonian
United, We Can Make a Difference
The United Macedonian Diaspora (UMD) was founded in 2004 and has grown into a leading international non-governmental organization addressing the interests and needs of Macedonian people and communities throughout the world outside of Macedonia.

UMD's main goals are to foster unity among Macedonian people and to advance their cause. UMD works to promote our Macedonian historical, spiritual, and cultural heritage while preserving and promoting the Macedonian tradition within the framework of various advocacy, educational, and charitable programs.

**UMD Objectives**

- Safeguarding the rights of Macedonians around the world
- Strengthening the unity of the Macedonian Diaspora
- Acting for the benefit of Macedonian communities before governmental and international bodies
- Cooperating with the world community by promoting universal ideals of peace, freedom, self-determination, and justice
- Preserving and promoting Macedonian culture

**UMD Policy Issues**

- Supporting the Republic of Macedonia’s constitutional and rightful name
- Advancing Macedonian issues through educational advocacy, charitable efforts, and social and cultural events
- Defending the Macedonian ethnic and national identity internationally
- Supporting the human rights of Macedonians in Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Kosovo, and Serbia
- Improving bilateral relations between Macedonia and Australia, Canada, China, European Union Member-States, Russia, and the United States, among others
- Assisting in Macedonia's accession into international bodies such as the EU and NATO

**UMD recognizes that the success and well being of Macedonian communities worldwide is essential for the success and well being of Macedonia.**

UMD's efforts are undertaken by its professional staff, interns, and volunteers with its International Headquarters in Washington, D.C., and its offices and representatives serving Macedonian communities around the world, including in Australia, Austria, Canada, France, Germany, Greece, Russia, the United Kingdom, and throughout the United States.
2012 UMD Board of Directors

Stojan Nikolov, Chairman of the Board of Directors
Metodija A. Koloski, President
Aleksandar Mitreski, Vice President
George Peters, Secretary
Lidija Stojkoska, Treasurer
Ordan Andreevski, Director of Australian Operations
Jim Daikos, Director of Canadian Operations
Trajko Papuckoski, Director of U.S. Operations
Goran Saveski
Dame Krcoski

2011 UMD Board Members (no longer serving)

Denis Manevski
Michael A. Sarafin
Aleksandra Trpkovska

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Canada@umdiaspora.org

UMD Australia
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Hawthorn, VIC 3122
Phone: 0438 385 466
Australia@umdiaspora.org

www.umdiaspora.org

UMD Advisory Council

The UMD Advisory Council is a multi-sector advisory group. Membership on the UMD Advisory Council comes by invitation from the UMD Board of Directors, and drawn from the worlds of the arts, business, and public service. UMD benefits greatly from the UMD Advisory Council members’ experiences in a variety of fields to further assist in our mission, particularly in the establishment of innovative partnerships with relevant institutions worldwide.

Ambassador Ljubica Z. Acevska
Chris Antoniou
George Atanasoski
Dana L. Klein
George Koroloff
George Markou
Mark B. Mitskovsk
Jerry Naumoff
Elizabeth Naumovski
Jim Pavle
Chris Stanwyck
Thomas N. Taneff
Glogor Tashkovich
Nicholas Thaw
Lou Vlasho

UMD Voice

UMD Voice is UMD’s quarterly magazine and the premier publication for the Macedonian Diaspora. UMD Voice is distributed to UMD members in a printed edition; it can also be downloaded from the UMD website. Each issue of UMD Voice is generally downloaded approximately 25,000 times from the UMD website upon the publication of each issue.

The magazine reaches out to a very wide range of people, of all ages and professions, from all over the world. Aside from stories about Macedonia itself, UMD Voice is also your source of news about UMD events, as well as feature interviews with prominent Macedonians in the Diaspora, and features about Macedonia and the Balkans, including human rights, economic development, tourism, culture and many other topics of interest.
II. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Statement of Activities - 2011 CONSOLIDATED

Revenue
Global Conference $ 59,225 25%
Membership Dues and Donations 157,102 66%
Grant 21,834 9%
UMD Voice 474 0%
Total Public Support and Other Revenue $ 238,636 100%

Operating Expenses
Charitable and Educational Programs $146,544 59%
Cultural Programs 15,938 6%
Management and Administrative 56,404 23%
Fundraising and Special Events 28,890 12%
Total Expenses $247,776 100%
Change in Net Assets $ (9,141)
Statement of Activities - Retrospective Comparison

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<tr>
<td>Global Conference</td>
<td>$59,225</td>
<td>$(33,191)</td>
<td>$(36,864)</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>-24%</td>
<td>-28%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership Dues and Donations</td>
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<td>84%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grant</td>
<td>21,834</td>
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<td>75,000</td>
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<td>37%</td>
<td>57%</td>
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<tr>
<td>UMD Voice</td>
<td>474</td>
<td>4,750</td>
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<td>0%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Public Support and Other Revenue</td>
<td>$238,636</td>
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<td>$131,164</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operating Expenses</th>
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<tr>
<td>Charitable and Educational Programs</td>
<td>$146,544</td>
<td>$5,750</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cultural Programs</td>
<td>15,938</td>
<td>19,757</td>
<td>4,075</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management and Administrative</td>
<td>56,404</td>
<td>88,902</td>
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<td>53%</td>
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<td>Fundraising and Special Events</td>
<td>28,890</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>7%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>$247,776</td>
<td>$158,311</td>
<td>$94,362</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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Change in Net Assets: $(9,141) $(22,042) $36,802
UMD successfully completed its 3rd Annual Global Conference (UMD GC2011) at the JW Marriott in downtown Washington, D.C. from June 23-25, 2011. Macedonians and friends of Macedonia from Australia, Canada, Europe, Macedonia, and the United States traveled to attend the Global Conference. As 2011 marked the 20th Anniversary since Macedonia’s independence, UMD’s Board of Directors set the theme for the Global Conference as “Shaping the Future,” and envisioned a policy-oriented conference where participants could discuss Macedonia’s progress, current state of affairs, and future.

The Global Conference began with UMD conferring the UMD International Freedom Award to Senator John McCain of Arizona. Throughout the first day of the Global Conference, attendees participated in meetings on Capitol Hill to encourage members of Congress to join the newly established Congressional Caucus on Macedonia and Macedonian-Americans. That evening, everybody gathered at the Macedonian Embassy to hear speeches from Ambassador Ljubica Z. Acevska, 2011 UMD Global Conference Honorary Chair and the first Macedonian Ambassador to the United States; Jovica Palashevski, Macedonian Consul General to Chicago; and, Stojan Nikolov, UMD Board Chairman. At the reception, UMD also conferred the UMD International Freedom Award upon Senator Joe Lieberman of Connecticut and Senator Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey. U.S. Representative Bill Pascrell of New Jersey also addressed the attendees and praised UMD and Macedonian-Americans for strengthening U.S.-Macedonian relations.

Day Two was filled with interesting and enlightening panels and commenced with a keynote address from Thomas Countryman, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, addressing the strategic importance of U.S.-Macedonian relations. Panelists and speakers including the Honorable Mary Catherine Andrews, the National Democratic Institute’s Robert Benjamin, U.S. Helsinki Commission’s Robert Hand, the Heritage Foundation’s Sally McNamara, InvestMacedonia’s CEO Viktor Mizo, and former North Dakota Congressman Earl Pomeroy addressed Macedonia’s progress over the past twenty years.

At a luncheon held on Day Two, Ambassador Acevska discussed the progression of U.S.-Macedonian relations since 1991. In addition, producer
of the film A Name is A Name, Jason Miko received the UMD Macedonia Friendship Award.

Later that day, Steven Grimberg moderated a panel regarding Macedonia’s judicial system. Panelists included Justice Department’s Marcus Busch, Justice Department’s Thomas Peebles, Massachusetts District Court Judge Richard G. Stearns, and World Bank specialist Tea Trumbic.

Following, UMD Board Chairman Stojan Nikolov moderated a panel “Generation M – The Young Leaders Program of UMD,” which featured Andrew Ananievski from Melbourne, Australia; Alexander Karapanec from Toronto, Canada; Anthony Naumoff from Skopje, Macedonia; and Dimitar Popov from Chicago, Illinois. Special guest panelists included Emil Gjorgov from the University American College in Skopje, Aditi Ramchandani from the Network of South Asian Professionals in D.C., and Beril Unver from the Turkish Coalition of America, who detailed experiences within their own ethnic communities. An off-the-record briefing with State Department Desk Officers handling Albania, Greece, and Macedonia ended UMD GC2011’s policy-oriented segment.

Day Two concluded with a reception and the cultural program “Experience Macedonia.” Macedonian Consul General Jovica Palashevski received a plaque from UMD President Koloski recognizing him as the first-ever Consul General to Chicago and acknowledging his efforts in establishing Macedonian diplomatic representation in Chicago. The cultural program featured the Aleksandrija Macedonian Folk Dance Ensemble of Detroit and concluded with welcoming remarks. Macedonian Ambassador to the U.S. Zoran Jolevski also spoke. Ambassador Philip T. Reeker, U.S. Ambassador to Macedonia, addressed the Gala by video message. UMD Secretary Ivona Grimberg presented the UMD Macedonia Friendship Award to Mrs. Solveig Reeker in Ambassador Reeker’s absence. UMD Chairman Stojan Nikolov then presented the UMD Macedonia Friendship Award to Professor Victor Friedman. UMD President Metodija A. Koloski presented the next UMD Macedonia Friendship Award to Ambassador Christopher R. Hill, the first U.S. Ambassador to Macedonia.

Macedonian-American businessman George Atanasoski received the UMD Lifetime Achievement Award from UMD Vice President Aleksandar Mitreski. UMD Advisory Council Member Mark Mitskovski addressed Gala attendees and announced the establishment of the Macedonian Companions Program. Finally, UMD President Koloski presented the UMD Macedonian Heritage Public Service Award to Ambassador Ljubica Z. Acevska for her service to Macedonia and the Macedonian people.

The Gala featured a special performance from the Tanec Macedonian Folk Dance Ensemble of Detroit and concluded with traditional Macedonian music from Nostalgija.
IV. MACEDONIAN COMPANIONS PROGRAM ESTABLISHED

On Saturday, June 25, 2011, during the Gala of the 3rd Annual United Macedonian Diaspora (UMD) Global Conference celebrating the 20th Anniversary of Macedonia’s independence, UMD launched its Macedonian Companions Program.

The program is designed to attract 300 Macedonians and friends of Macedonia from around the world to donate $1,000 per year for three years, which would furnish UMD with an annual operating budget of $300,000 over three years, totaling $900,000. By securing UMD’s operating needs, members of Macedonian Companions ensure the continued success in promoting and advancing our culture and interests across the global Macedonian Diaspora.

During the 2011 UMD Global Conference, 35 Macedonians and friends of Macedonia pledged their support for this important initiative and committed to advancing the Macedonian cause alongside UMD and more Macedonians and friends of Macedonia continue to join this program.

Inaugural Macedonian Companions Members as of June 25, 2011

| Ambassador Ljubica Z. Acevska | Dame Krcoski | Steve Pliakas |
| Chris Antoniou | Vlade Lembovski | Bosko Rajcovski |
| George Atanasoski | Dr. Lefter Mantse | Donald Sazdanoff |
| Stephanie Atseff | George Markou | Vlado Serdenkovski |
| Alexander Ballios | Peter Medichkov | Chris Stanwyck |
| Donco Bauloski | Jason Miko | Nicholas Thaw |
| Odyssey Belchevsky | Mark B. Mitskovski | Ivan Trposki |
| John L. N. Bitove, C.M. | Dimitar Nasev | Lou Vlasho |
| Jordan Bitove | Jerry Naumoff | Anonymous |
| Dr. Robert Givelas | Robert Pasquale | Anonymous |
| Tony Joseski | Chris Pavlovski | Anonymous |
| Metodija A. Koloski | Gus Philippov | |
Recognizing that the education is key to UMD’s purposes, UMD undertook activities throughout 2011 to advance both the educational progress of young Macedonians around the world, but also worked tirelessly to educate the public about Macedonia and Macedonian issues.

The UMD International Policy and Diplomacy Fellows Program and the UMD Public Relations and Communications Fellows Program are designed for undergraduate and graduate students interested in Macedonia and Southeast Europe. The internship can serve as an effective means to introduce and advance a future career in foreign policy, journalism, public relations, human rights, advocacy, government, or the nonprofit sector.

Martin Anastasovski, studying Political Science at Montclair State University; Ana Buling, studying Journalism and Mass Communications at George Washington University; Bryan James Furman, studying International Studies and Psychology at The College of New Jersey; Gordana Stojkoska, studying Intercultural Studies at Fresno Pacific University; and Elke Van Schil, studying International Diplomacy at the University of Antwerp took part in the 2011 Fellowship Programs.

The responsibilities of the interns may include monitoring legislation and congressional hearings; liaison with Congressional offices on subjects vital to the UMD; attending events throughout Washington, D.C.; conducting research on issues affecting U.S.-Macedonia and U.S.-Southeast Europe relations; preparing memoranda; drafting letters to the Congress and the Executive Branch; drafting press releases, monitoring human rights in Southeast Europe; organizing events throughout the U.S. and the world; and assisting with general administrative duties.

In December 2010, UMD President Metodija A. Koloski appeared at Yorktown High School in Arlington, Virginia to speak to students in its World History Class arranged by UMD members Diana Booth and Michelle Booth, a student of the class. After speaking to a class of 25 students about the history, geography and people of Macedonia, Koloski presented the students with 25 copies each of Stale Popov’s well-known novel The Legend of Kalesh Andja, and Macedonian Gold by Dr. Michael Seraphinoff.
The UMD John L. N. Bitove, C.M., Macedonian Heritage Scholarship Program (UMD Bitove Scholarship) assists Macedonians pursuing undergraduate degrees in Australia, Canada, Europe, and the United States. The Scholarship Program, endowed by Canadian-Macedonian John L. N. Bitove, C.M. and the Bitove Foundation, advances the education of Macedonians who are guided by the values of their Macedonian upbringing and heritage. The number and amount of scholarships varies based on available resources and candidates. Recipients are selected on the basis of academic achievement, commitment to civic leadership, and involvement in their Macedonian community. Recipients must submit an essay on the importance and role of their Macedonian heritage.

In April 2011, UMD presented three aspiring young Canadian-Macedonians with their UMD Bitove Scholarship Awards. The Awards, in the amount of $2,000 each, were presented by Mr. Bitove’s children Vonna, Nick, and Thomas Bitove to Alexandra Close, Alexander Karapancev, and Biljana Markovska during a ceremony at St. Clement of Ohrid Macedonian Orthodox Cathedral in Toronto, Canada before family members, friends and supporters of UMD.

In November 2011, UMD awarded DePaul University undergraduate student Nevena Neskoska the fourth UMD Bitove Scholarship in the amount of $1,500. In December 2011, UMD awarded NOVA undergraduate student Michelle Booth the fifth UMD Bitove Scholarship in the amount of $1,500.

Founded in 2010, Generation “M” is the UMD’s new generation program, which will work to inspire and empower young professionals to engage today’s critical domestic and international issues. Working at the nexus between the Macedonian community and the world, Generation “M” will work to reach out to diplomats, policy makers and young leaders of diverse ethnic communities and strive to re-envision the role of young Macedonian leaders in global affairs. The aim of Generation “M” is to foster the unity of young Macedonians between the ages of 18-28 worldwide and to strive to ensure their participation in the fulfillment of the aspirations of the Macedonian people, its continuity, and the development of its cultural and social heritage.
VI. PROMOTING MACEDONIAN CULTURE

There is no better way to educate the public about Macedonia, and indeed any education in Macedonia begins with, the promotion of Macedonia’s rich cultural heritage. To such end, UMD worked throughout 2011 to promote both UMD events and other events promoting and advancing Macedonian culture. UMD also organizes cross-cultural events so its members and friends can learn about other cultures, while at the same time allowing others to learn about Macedonian culture.

In January 2011, the Assembly of Turkish American Associations and UMD held the 3rd Annual Macedonian-Turkish Friendship Happy Hour at ATAA’s Turkish House Washington, D.C. Over 80 guests joined in the festivities, which featured Macedonian and Turkish wine and cuisine, and traditional music and dancing, making it the most attended Macedonian-Turkish Friendship Happy Hour thus far. Proceeds raised during the event were donated to the D.C. Children’s Hospital.

Also in January 2011, around 50 Macedonians and friends of Macedonia gathered for the first Macedonian Orthodox Divinity Service, facilitated by UMD, in the history of Washington, D.C. The service was conducted by Very Reverend Father Slobodan Petkovski who travelled from his parish in New Jersey, Saints Kiril and Metodij Macedonian Orthodox Church. Held at Saint Nicholas Orthodox Cathedral, the divinity service was conducted with the blessing of Metropolitan Jonah of the Orthodox Church of America and Metropolitan Metodij of the American-Canadian Diocese of the Macedonian Orthodox Church. After the divinity service, guests continued to the Embassy of Macedonia for the 6th Annual Macedonian Old New Year’s - Vasilica Celebration that was attended by around 150 people including guests from the State Department, Congress, and the diplomatic corps.

In April 2011, for the first time in Australia, UMD organized the first ever Macedonian Food Festival in Perth. The event took place at Edith Cowan University Joondalup Campus, showcasing Macedonian culture through its delicious cuisine to students and visitors of all backgrounds. The Macedonian Food Festival was attended by over a thousand students and visitors, including special guests such as the President of the Western-Australian Macedonian Parliamentary Friendship Group, WA
Parliament Liberal party member Mr. Tony Krsticevic, who was accompanied by other local politicians and diplomatic representatives of various nations.

In August 2011, UMD organized a cultural tour of Macedonia for the Chairman of our partner organization the Turkish Coalition of America, Dr. Yalcin Ayasli, who has origins from Bitola, and his family. UMD Chairman Stojan Nikolov and UMD President Metodija A. Koloski accompanied Dr. Ayasli and his family. Skopje, Ohrid, Bitola, Veles, and Demir Kapija were on the itinerary and meetings were held with the Mayors of Bitola (Vladimir Taleski) and Ohrid (Aleksandar Petreski), and the Macedonian Member of Parliament for the North American Diaspora Pavle Sazdov. In Skopje, Dr. Ayasli and the family were received by His Excellency Dr. Gjorge Ivanov, the President of Macedonia where they discussed U.S.-Macedonian relations. Dr. Ayasli received the UMD Macedonia Friendship Award in the presence of President Ivanov.

In November 2011, UMD held a reception in Toronto to celebrate the 8th Anniversary of UMD and to mark the launch of the Macedonian Companions Program in Canada.

Throughout 2010 and 2011, UMD took a leading role in planning and holding screenings of the documentary film A Name is a Name, throughout the United States. Working in cooperation with Mr. Jason Miko, the producer, UMD held screenings in Washington, D.C., New Jersey, New York City, Chicago, and Los Angeles. The documentary takes viewers through the Republic of Macedonia through the eyes of a Scandinavian traveler who speaks with Macedonians from various backgrounds that tell the traveler what it means for them to be Macedonians.

UMD has participated in international cultural festivals at American University, Georgetown University and George Washington University, displaying information about Macedonian culture, art, and music. In addition, UMD has helped sponsor the 1st Macedonian Festival in New Jersey in 2008, the 4th and 5th Annual Macedonian Film Festival in Toronto in 2009 and 2010, and the 1st Macedonian Film Festival in London in 2010.

In October 2009, UMD initiated the screening of Next Year in Liner, a film that portrays the story of Nikola and Vasil, ethnic Macedonians in their 60s who wish to visit their birthplace in Aegean Macedonia, now northern Greece, during the 18th Annual Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival. Also in October 2009, UMD sponsored the trip of the Macedonian Folk Dance Ensemble “Aleksandrija” to participate at the Annual Turkish Festival in Washington, D.C., before an audience of 10,000 people.

In November 2009, UMD helped sponsor the 7th Macedonian-North American Conference of Macedonian Studies at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. This is a scholarly event that takes place every three years with the participation of North American and Macedonian scholars. The conference brings together established scholars to discuss issues of importance to the study of Macedonia and the Macedonian language.
UMD serves as a leading voice for Macedonia and always works to educate policy makers and governmental officials around the world about Macedonia and Macedonian issues. UMD has been and remains a leading voice in the on-going international efforts to secure Macedonia’s place within NATO, a place that it has already earned by its actions, and tirelessly works to counter the assault on Macedonia’s name, cultural identity and history by those who attempt to deny Macedonia and the Macedonian people their name, cultural identity and history.

In February 2011, UMD met with Canadian International Trade Minister Peter Van Loan to discuss advancing Canadian-Macedonian business and trade ties and the establishment of a free trade agreement between both countries. In March 2011, UMD President Metodija A. Koloski traveled to Budapest, Hungary and met with both Hungarian Government officials and with Hungarian-Macedonian community leaders. Hungary’s Macedonian community is largely composed of refugees, or their descendants, stemming from the Greek Civil War. During this visit, UMD donated over 150 Macedonian language books to the University of Budapest’s Macedonian language program, which is one of the University’s fastest growing foreign language programs. The book donation event was arranged by Macedonia’s Ambassador to Budapest, Ambassador Darko Angelov along with the Macedonian Agency of Emigration. UMD’s President also attended that same month the opening of the Holocaust Memorial Centre in Skopje, in memory of the 7,144 Macedonian Jews sent to Treblinka in 1943 by Bulgaria’s armed forces.

In April 2011, UMD met with the United Nations Special Envoy Mediator Matthew Nimetz, in New York. During the meeting, UMD stressed the unprecedented resolution asking the Republic of Macedonia to negotiate over its official name. These imposed “name negotiations” have de facto deprived the basic right of self-identification from the millions of Macedonians worldwide, and the UMD delegation used the opportunity to call once again for their immediate termination.

In April 2011, UMD announced that, through UMD’s efforts, United States Congresswoman Candice S. Miller of Michigan formed the first-ever Congressional Caucus on Macedonia and Macedonian-Americans (the Congressional Macedonian Caucus). The Congressional
Macedonian Caucus is a bipartisan group of members of Congress dedicated to maintaining and strengthening a positive and mutually beneficial relationship between the United States and Macedonia. The Caucus had seven members at the end of 2011.

In May 2011, as part of the U.S. State Department’s first-ever Global Diaspora Forum, UMD and The Heritage Foundation, a leading Washington D.C., think-tank, co-hosted a ground breaking Roundtable Discussion that brought together officials from the State Department, Capitol Hill staff, the Ambassadors of Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, and Macedonia and diplomats from the Embassies of Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, and Turkey. Leaders of Diaspora organizations represented the Albanian, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Greek, Macedonian, Serbian, and Turkish-American communities in the United States. UMD spearheaded the founding of the Southeast Europe Coalition – an informal body of all of these communities to work together on mutual interests for the region, such as NATO and the Visa Waiver Program.

In August 2011, UMD Australia co-organized an event at the Australian Parliament in Canberra to celebrate the Republic of Macedonia’s 20th Anniversary since independence. The event was attended by members of the Australian-Macedonian Parliamentary Friendship Group MPs Stephen Jones, Luke Simpkins, Laurie Fergusson, Bill Shorten, Harry Jenkins, Ed Husic, Peter Slipper, Phillip Ruddock, the Embassies of Macedonia and Turkey, and representatives of various Macedonian community organizations. A similar event was co-organized by UMD Australia in September 2011 at the Victorian Parliament in Melbourne attended by members of the Parliament Hon. Bruce Atkinson, MLC, President of the Legislative Council, Andrew Elsbury, Georgie Crozier, David Southwick, Bernie Finn, Craig Ondarache, Guy Matthews, Robert Scott, Lily D’Ambrosio, Colleen Hartland, the Consulate Generals of China, Croatia and Macedonia, and representatives of the various Macedonian community organizations and business community.

In addition to meeting with public officials and conducting events, UMD also constantly monitors national and international media reports regarding Macedonia and diligently works to educate the press, to engage in meetings with journalists and to provide fact-sheets and information to journalists and media organizations to ensure that Macedonia and Macedonian issues are properly covered. UMD also regularly issues press releases to national and international media outlets and UMD has published opinion-editorial pieces in leading newspapers in Washington, D.C., Canada, and Australia. UMD’s press releases including condemnations of Greek and Bulgarian anti-Macedonian propaganda, support for nations and groups supporting Macedonia’s NATO and EU admissions, and gratitude for those nations and groups who recognize Macedonia’s constitutional name.

Throughout 2011, ON LINE Opinion, Australia’s leading e-journal of social and political debate published five opinion pieces by UMD Australia Director Ordan Andreevski on variety of topics, including the key challenges to reforming AusAid, Australia’s aid program and development sector in the 21st century; the need for Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard to deliver foreign policy innovation on Macedonia, specifically recognizing Macedonia by its constitutional name; empowerment of the Macedonian community to drive policy reform in Australia for building a new relationship between Australia and Macedonia; and the need to upgrade Australian democracy to drive better outcomes for Australian society.

UMD’s 2012 Macedonia in NATO campaign began with an opinion piece by UMD President Metodija A. Koloski and UMD Director of Public Relations and Communications and editor of UMD Voice magazine Mark Branov for one of Canada’s leading daily newspapers the National Post titled Time to Let Macedonia Play with the Big Boys. In the op-ed, Koloski and Branov highlighted Macedonia’s contributions to the NATO alliance and called for Canada to stand up to Greece and to preserve peace and security in the Balkans. The Atlantic Council of the United States re-published the op-ed bringing the issue to a wider cross-border audience.
Every year, UMD organizes humanitarian donations from the diaspora community for Macedonia. In 2010-2011, UMD decided to focus on helping the elderly who reside in the senior citizens’ homes throughout Macedonia. Over the holiday season, thanks to the donations of Macedonian Diaspora around the world, and Macedonians in Macedonia as well, UMD was able to raise $2,500, which was matched by UMD’s Charitable Fund, totaling $5,000.

On March 7-8, 2011, UMD donated pajamas, socks and sweaters to the elderly in the Kiro Krstevski Platnik Senior Citizen’s Home in Prilep, and the Mother Theresa Senior Citizen’s Home in Skopje. UMD was also able to provide a washing machine to the Senior Citizen’s Home in Kumanovo. UMD thanks its partner, Konekt, from Macedonia for their help in coordinating the project and efforts delivering the aid to the seniors.

In the past, UMD has coordinated donations to orphanages and to hospitals, and for 2011, UMD wanted to address another segment that is not talked about much - the elderly in Macedonia. Many of us in the diaspora miss our grandparents back home. Some of them may live with families, while some of them live in senior citizens’ homes. UMD wanted to reach out to the ones that are not with their families this holiday season and let them know we haven’t forgotten about them. They are somebody’s Baba and Dedo.
IX. UMD OPERATIONS AND EVENTS

Since its establishment, UMD has experienced membership growth that required that it establish a system to better coordinate members’ interactions with each other and to best advance and serve UMD’s efforts.

Due to the fact that UMD does not have a chapter based structure, in the early days of UMD, it was the intention of the initial Board that as UMD grew, a network of local representatives to serve as liaisons between UMD and its members and Macedonian communities in given geographic regions would become necessary to provide local points of contact for UMD. As UMD has grown, this vision has come to fruition and over the past year UMD has established regions and Regional Representatives to better serve UMD members and advance UMD’s efforts.

In December 2010, UMD launched its Mid-Atlantic Regional Operations, which covers Washington, D.C., Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, and Eastern Pennsylvania. Over 40 friends of UMD, and UMD members attended the mid-afternoon launch hosted by longtime UMD members and supporters Vladimir and Stephanie Atseff. Blagoj B. Petkovski was appointed as the first UMD Mid-Atlantic Regional Representative.

In November 2011, the UMD celebrated an important milestone in its continuous growth strategy in Australia by officially launching its operations in New South Wales and appointing Tony Joseski as UMD Sydney/New South Wales Representative.

In November 2011, UMD officially launched its Chicago operations at a reception held at the Union League Club in downtown Chicago and appointed Natalia Betinski-Buling as UMD Chicago Representative.